HOUSE OF M

MARVEL 70 .com

EXILES

WALL STREET
EARTH #616

"WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?"

THAT'S WHAT WE ASK OURSELVES EVERY TIME WE POP INTO A NEW REALITY, USUALLY FOLLOWED BY "HOW CAN WE SET IT RIGHT?"

GOD MADE me this WAY!

ONLY, COMPARED TO WHERE I GREW UP, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG HERE AT ALL.

MY WORLD WAS CONSUMED BY A NIGHTMARISH WAR BETWEEN MUTANTS AND ORDINARY HUMANS-- "FLATSCANS," WE CALLED THEM.

HERE, THEY'RE CALLED "SAPIENS." MOST ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LADDER, BUT THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY OPPRESSED.

I MEAN, THESE GUYS COULD GET JOBS IF THEY WANTED. AND EVERY SOCIETY HAS ITS DREGS, RIGHT?

MY NAME IS CLARICE FERGUSON. I USUALLY GO BY MY X-MEN CODENAME: BLINK.

AND ASIDE FROM ONE GLARING PROBLEM, I'M STARTING TO THINK THIS WORLD IS HOW LIFE SHOULD BE.

THE PROBLEM IS *BEAK.*

THIS IS *HIS* WORLD--SORT OF. HE JOINED OUR TEAM A FEW MONTHS AGO TO HELP US FIX ALTERNATE REALITIES GONE WRONG.

WHILE WE WERE AWAY, EVERYTHING *CHANGED* HERE. IT WENT FROM A WORLD WHERE MUTANTS WERE A MISUNDERSTOOD MINORITY TO ONE WHERE MUTATION IS THE NORM.

WE DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED, OR IF IT CAN BE CHANGED BACK...BUT *UNDOING* THIS UTOPIA MIGHT BE THE GREATEST CRIME OF ALL.

WORLD TOUR
HOUSE OF M
Part II of III

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ERIK. MAGNUS. *MAGNETO.* IN THE REALITY I COME FROM, HE LEADS THE X-MEN. IN OTHERS, HE'S THE MOST *EVIL MUTANT* ON EARTH.

STOCK EXCHANGE

ON THIS VERSION OF EARTH, HE'S A *HERO* OF THE *HIGHEST ORDER.* I'VE SPENT ALL MORNING READING UP ON HIM.

KING MAGNUS COMMANDS GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD,

THE PROSPERITY HE BRINGS IS UNDENIABLE. THE EVILS HIS ARMIES AVERT ARE TOO *NUMEROUS* TO COUNT.

EVEN THE *SENTINEL* ROBOTS, THE SCOURGE OF MUTANTKIND IN EVERY OTHER REALITY, SERVE ONLY TO *PROTECT.*

NONE OF THIS HOLDS ANY CONSOLATION FOR BEAK.

DON'T WORRY, BARNELL, WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED AND WE'LL CHANGE IT ALL BACK. IF ANYONE CAN, IT'S US.

YER NOT THINKIN' THIS THROUGH, MIMIC...

...WE FIX REALITIES THAT ARE DOOMED. THIS WORLD'S DOIN' JUST FINE WITHOUT OUR HELP.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SABRE-TOOTH? BEAK'S KIDS DON'T EVEN EXIST HERE!

YEAH, I GOT THAT. BUT WHAT IF WE ERASE A BILLION MORE KIDS WHEN WE CHANGE THINGS BACK?

WOULD THAT BE FAIR?

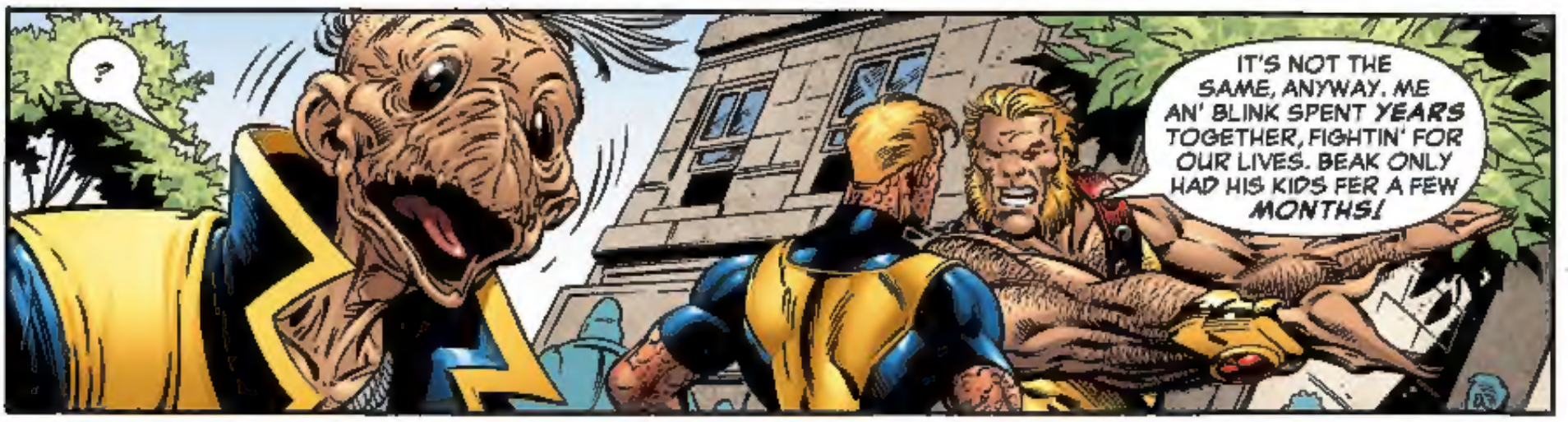
BEAK'S YOUNG. HE CAN START OVER. AN' IN THIS WORLD, HE ACTUALLY STANDS A CHANCE OF HOOKIN' UP AGAIN!

Y'THINK ANYONE IN THIS CROWD WILL JUDGE HIM FOR HIS LOOKS? HECK, NOBODY'S GIVEN YOUR UGLY MUG A SECOND GLANCE SINCE WE GOT HERE!

WELL, THAT'S MIGHTY NOBLE OF YOU, WRITING OFF BEAK'S CHILDREN LIKE THAT.

BUT IF CLARICE WAS SUDDENLY ERASED FROM EXISTENCE, I KNOW YOU'D KILL HALF THE PLANET TO GET HER BACK!

LONG AS I GET TO START WITH YOU.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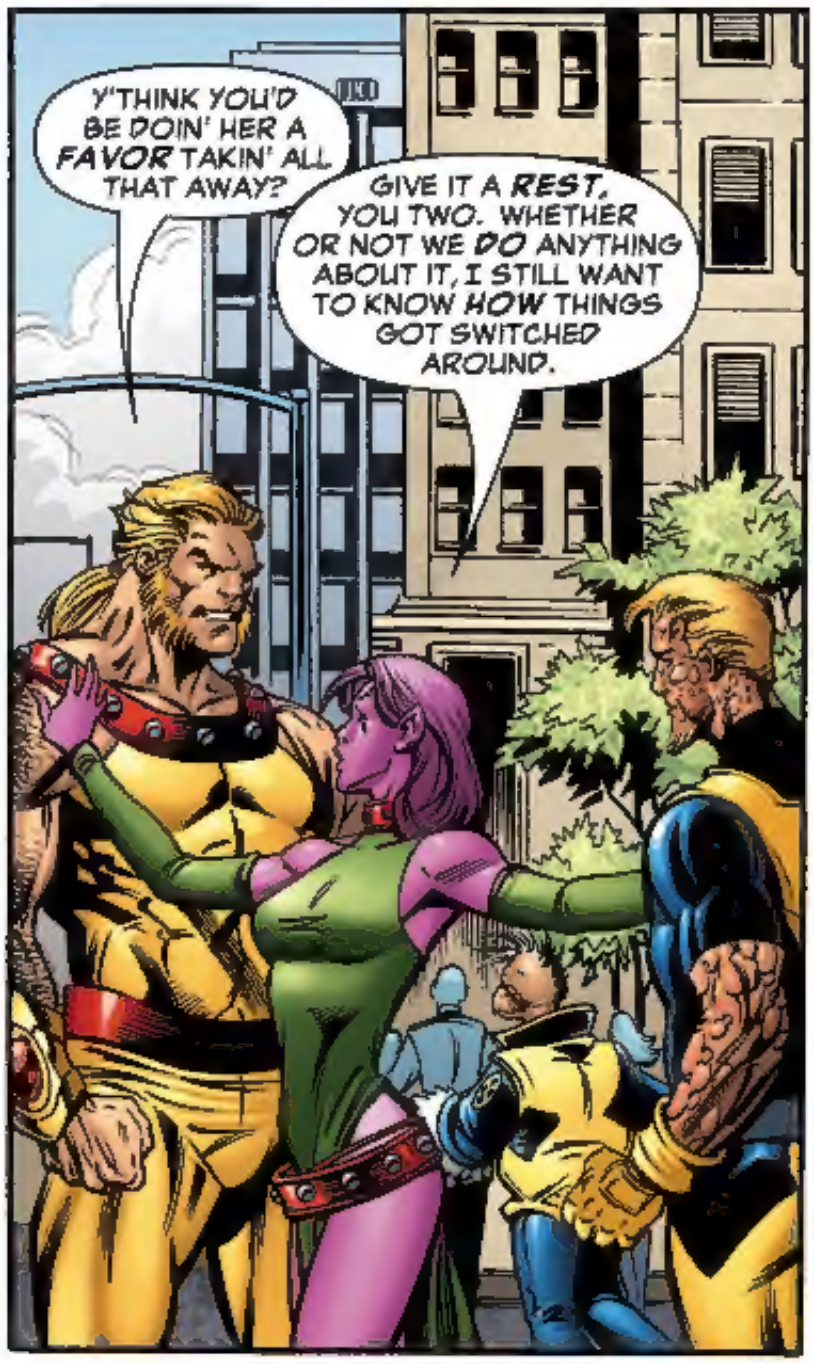
IT'S NOT THE SAME, ANYWAY. ME AN' BLINK SPENT YEARS TOGETHER, FIGHTIN' FOR OUR LIVES. BEAK ONLY HAD HIS KIDS FER A FEW MONTHS!

BESIDES, FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, HIS GIRLFRIEND'S BETTER OFF NOW THAN SHE WAS BEFORE.

"SHE USETA LIVE IN A SHACK WITH HIM, RIGHT? NOW SHE'S A FLIPPIN' UNDERWEAR MODEL WITH HER OWN UPTOWN APARTMENT."


Y'THINK YOU'D BE DOIN' HER A FAVOR TAKIN' ALL THAT AWAY?
GIVE IT A REST, YOU TWO. WHETHER OR NOT WE DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, I STILL WANT TO KNOW HOW THINGS GOT SWITCHED AROUND.

...'SCUSE ME... PARDON...

ANGEL...?
ANGEL!

BUCKAWWW!

A-ANGEL?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

UM, GUYS...? AND I'M SERIOUSLY ASKING...

SHUT UP AN' QUIT YUIR STRUGGLIN', LEST I DROP YE!

...WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

IZZAT BEAK'S *GAL* CARRYIN' HIM...?

I CAN CATCH UP!

YE *DO* THAT AN' YUIR LIKELY TAE GET YUIR FRIEND *KILLED.*

SAY *WHAT?*

THE BIRD-BOY'S IN DANGER, TAE BE SURE, BUT YE CAN ONLY HELP HIM IF YE KNOW WHAT YUIR UP AGAINST.

WHO *ARE* YOU?

I'LL TELL YE, BUT NOT HERE. NOT WITH KING MAGNUS'S *TIN SOLDIERS* SO CLOSE.

GZZK

THERE'S A PLACE NEARBY WHERE WE CAN TALK...

"FIRST, I'M SORRY TAE INFORM YE THAT THE GIRL WHO TOOK YUIR FRIEND IS ALREADY ***BEYOND SAVIN'***..."

...THE POOR CHILD IS NOW JUST A ***VEHICLE*** FOR A MUTANT I'VE CHASED ALL THE WAY FROM EDINBURGH.

HE HAS THE POWER TAE SNATCH BODIES...AN' TAE ***BEND REALITY*** ITSELF. IT GIVES HIM A DISTINCT AN' POWERFUL ENERGY SIGNATURE.

I USE ***THIS*** TAE TRACK HIM, AN' I NOTICED THAT ***YE*** PEOPLE GIVE OFF A SIM'LAR READING.

MORE TAE THE POINT, YUIR WEE ***BRACELET*** DOES. AN' WHEN I HEARD YE SAY SOMETHIN' ABOUT "SAVIN' REALITIES THAT ARE DOOMED," WELL...

...I'M ***PRAYIN'*** YE CAN HELP ME ***STOP*** HIM.

STOP ***WHO?***

MY ***SON.***

MY NAME'S ***MOIRA MacTAGGERT.*** DOES THAT ***MEAN*** ANYTHING TAE YE?

SHOULD IT?

WELL, YE REALLY ***ARE*** STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND, AREN'T YE?

"IF YE *EVER* WATCHED THE NEWS, YE'D RECOGNIZE MY NAME AN' KNOW I'M NOT THE *BAG-LADY* I APPEAR TAE BE.

"I'M A *SCIENTIST*. I OWNED A RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON *MUIR ISLE*, IN SCOTLAND.

"MY FIELD IS *GENETICS*. I WAS THE FIRST TAE PROPERLY IDENTIFY THE EMERGIN' MUTANT PHENOMENON TWENTY YEARS AGO.

"THAT WON ME THE NOBEL PRIZE. THE GRANT MONEY POURED IN, BUT NONE OF IT COULD SAVE MY SON *KEVIN* FROM HIS OWN MUTATION...

"...HE WITHERED BEFORE MY EYES, AND HUNGERED TAE *FEED* ON OTHERS. I LOCKED HIM AWAY AND SEARCHED FOR A WAY TAE CURE HIM BY ISOLATIN' AND *NEUTRALIZIN'* THE MUTANT GENE ITSELF.

"BUT SEEKING A MEANS TO *UNDO* MUTATION IS A SHUIR WAY TAE MAKE AN *ENEMY* O' KING MAGNUS.

"I'VE BEEN THE *MOST WANTED* SAPIEN IN THE WORLD EVER SINCE..."

...AN' MY SON ESCAPED TAE BECOME THE WORLD'S MOST WANTED *MUTANT.*"

SO DID YOU FINALLY *REMEMBER* ME? OR MAYBE WHAT I SAID ABOUT THE *KIDS* GOT YOU THINKING...

NO, LAD, SHE DINNAE REMEMBER YE IN THE LEAST. AN' WE'RE CERTAINLY NOT HERE TAE D SCUSS HAVIN' CHILDREN.

ANGEL, WHY ARE YOU *TALKING* SO FUNNY?

AND WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR EYES? ARE YOU ON *DRUGS?*

ANGEL IS NAE HERE RIGHT NOW. IN FACT, I'M ABOUT THE *FURTHEST* THING FROM AN ANGEL YE'LL EVER MEET

NOW, TELL ME ALL ABOUT YUIR FRIENDS. I SENSE SOMETHIN' IN THEM I'VE NEVER FELT BEFORE, SOMETHIN'... *KINDRED...*

...AN' JUST SO YE *KNOW* WHY YE'LL HOLD BACK NOTHING FROM ME, TAKE A GANDER AT THE HEADLINE. IT'S ABOUT *YUIRS TRULY.*

THE SECOND ONE DOWN. OBVIOUSLY, I'M NOT KING MAGNUS, NOR THAT ARMORED BAMPOT, VON DOOM.

W-WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU SAYING, ANGEL?

I'M NOT YUIR BLEEDIN' GIRLFRIEND. I'M MUTANT X!

SO YE'D BEST START TELLIN' ME ABOUT YUIR COMPANIONS NOW--

--ELSE I'LL CLIMB INSIDE YUIR BODY AN' RUMMAGE THROUGH YUIR MEM'RIES!

WHU--?

AHHH!

IT'D CERTAINLY BE QUICKER THAN PLAYIN' TWENTY QUESTIONS, BUT I'D BURN YE OUT JUST LIKE POOR AULD BLOONDERBUSS--

--AN' I'M IN NO HURRY TO GIVE UP THIS SHELL. SHE'S STAYIN' FRESH MUCH LONGER THAN I EVER EXPECTED!

SO YOUR KID IS A *MUTANT SERIAL KILLER*, AN' HE'S GOT OUR FRIEND, AN WE'RE WASTIN' TIME HERE *TALKIN'?!*

YE CANNAE JUST *ATTACK* HIM. THERE ARE THINGS YE NEED TAE *KNOW* FIRST, AN' THINGS I NEED TAE KNOW ABOUT YE!

MILK

MISTER CREED, USE THE *TALLUS* TO CONTACT HEATHER.

ASK HER TO CHECK THE CRYSTAL PALACE *DATABASE* FOR ANYTHING ON A "MOIRA MACTAGGERT" AND SEE IF HER STORY RINGS TRUE.

WHAT'S A *TALLUS*?

HEATHER..

ALREADY ON IT, SABRETOOTH. I PULLED THAT WOMAN'S FILE THE MINUTE SHE TOLD YOU HER NAME.

OKAY, IF THIS WERE THE *USUAL* EARTH SIX-ONE-SIX, MOIRA MACTAGGERT THERE WOULD BE...

...WELL, SHE'D BE *DECEASED* RIGHT NOW-- BUT DON'T TELL HER THAT.

THE PART ABOUT HER BEING A *GENETICIST* ON MUIR ISLE CHECKS OUT

AS FOR HER *SON*, WHAT I'M FINDING SCARES THE HELL OUT OF ME...

EXCUSE ME, BUT THIS PLACE IS REALLY ONLY FOR DISADVANTAGED *SAPIENS*.

YOUR PRESENCE IS...*DISTURBING* THOSE WHO COME SEEK NG SUSTENANCE. I REGRET I MUST ASK YOU TO *LEAVE*.

I DON'T THINK YOU REGRET IT *ONE BIT*--

NO, NO, OF *COURSE* WE'LL LEAVE, FATHER. 'TIS MY FAULT, ANYWAY. I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER.

THANK YOU, MY CHILD. IT PAINS ME TO BE SO INHOSPITABLE...

SKRK

WHAT THE H--

PLEASE, SON.

WHAT IS THAT?

I DON'T KNOW. IT APPEARS TO BE A--

SPLT

=URK=

KLATCH

IZZZK

...URNHH...

SAINTS PRESERVE US.

INITIATE CAPTURE.

HELP!

FZOT

ANOMALY! MUTANT RESISTANCE

REQUESTING BACKUP

GET OUT, PEOPLE!

THRUNCH

GYAHH!

EXCESS SAPIENS OBSCURING TARGET.

OBSTRUCTION REMOVED.

EEEYAAHH--

ZARK

AND JUST LIKE THAT, ALL MY ROMANTIC NOTIONS ABOUT THIS BEING A UTOPIA *DIE SCREAMING.*

MUTANT COUNTERMEASURES ENABLED

ZARK

THESE THINGS HAVE NO *REGARD FOR LIFE,* AND NO LIFE OF THEIR OWN ..

...SO I WON'T HAVE TO *PULL* MY PUNCHES.

CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I WAS *HAPPY*. IT'S BEEN ONE D.SASTER AFTER ANOTHER LATELY.

I M SICK OF BEING LIED TO AND MAN.PULATED, WATCHING MY FRIENDS LOSE THEIR *POWERS*, THEIR *FAMILIES*, THEIR *LIVES*--

--IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING WE CARE ABOUT GETS *TAKEN AWAY*, P ECE BY PIECE BY PIECE

BLINK

BLINK

BLINK

BLINK

BLINK

MISTER CREED'S LIKE A *FATHER* TO ME. WHY DOES HE HAVE TO HATE THE MAN I *LOVE*?

AND WHY DID CAL'S BEAUTIFUL *FACE* HAVE TO TURN INTO GR'STLE AND MEAT?

I CAN LEARN TO LOOK PAST IT AND SEE HIS INNER BEAUTY, BUT *COME ON!* HAVEN'T WE BEEN THROUGH *ENOUGH?*

...SYSTEMS ERROR...SYSTEMS ERROR...

MAGNETO, A GOOD GUY? *FINE.* MUTANTS, THE MAJORITY? *CHECK.*

BUT SENTINELS CRASHING IN THROUGH THE FLOOR INSTEAD OF THE CEILING...? THAT IS JUST *WRONG!*

MORPH, IF YOU DON'T *LEND A HAND,* I SWEAR I'LL--

NEW TARGET ACQUIRED.

BLINK

BLINK

GET OUT YOUR *TRACKER DEVICE,* MACTAGGERT. WE'RE GOING TO GO SAVE MY FRIEND NOW.

ANYTHING ELSE WE NEED TO KNOW, YOU TELL US ON THE WAY.

TOO RIGHT, I WILL...

"KEVIN'S MUTANT ABILITY IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL EVER RECORDED. IT HAS *TWO* BASIC COMPONENTS...

"...FIRST, MY SON CAN TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE BASIC LAWS OF PHYSICS, ***WARPIN' REALITY*** TO SUIT HIS SICK WHIMS."

HIS DISPLAYS AREN'T USUALLY THIS... ***OSTENTATIOUS,*** THOUGH.

YEAH. THAT'S ***ONE*** WAY A' PUTTIN' IT.

MORPH

I WOULDA SAID "CRAZIER THAN TIM BURTON AND SALVADOR DALI'S TWO-HEADED LOVE-CHILD," BUT, HEY, THAT'S JUST ME.

THE *OTHER* THING IS THAT KEVIN'S POWER CONSUMES HIS BODY, SO HE'S ALWAYS LOOKIN' FOR *NEW* BODIES TAE INHABIT.

WHEN HE "POSSESSES" SOMEONE, HE *DISPLACES* THEIR PSYCHE, EFFECTIVELY *KILLIN'* 'EM.

SO REMEMBER, HE CAN LOOK LIKE *ANYONE*, AND IF YE GET TOO CLOSE TAE--SAY *TEN FEET* OR SO--YOU RISK HIM TAKING *YUIR* BODY.

AN' AS FAR AS I KNOW, HIS *ONLY* WEAKNESS IS HE CANNAE STAND THE TOUCH OF *METAL*.

HULLO, MOTHER.

NEXT:

THE POWER OF PROTEUS

THE DEADLIEST MUTANT ALIVE!